



Grant Amounts

- Maximum of 25 percent of eligible project costs.
- Minimum grant amount of \$1500.
- Maximum grant amount of \$250,000.
- Limit application to the amount that is needed to make project feasible.

Eligible Project Costs

- Purchase and installation of equipment.
- Construction of project improvements.
- Energy audits or assessments.
- Permit and professional service fees.
- Business plans.
- Retrofitting.

Technical Requirements

- Technical report
- Energy audit for projects over \$50,000



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Contact Information:

Lisa Noty

1400 W. Main Street

Albert Lea, MN 56007

Phone: (507) 373-7960 Ext. 120

Lisa.Noty@mn.usda.gov

The funding cycle(s) for fiscal year 2009:

To be announced.

More information and tools can be found at:

www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn/

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**Energy Efficiency
Improvements**



**RURAL ENERGY FOR
AMERICA PROGRAM**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The [USDA Rural Development](#) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program offers many opportunities for rural America. Much of rural America's economy is based on agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Energy efficiency reduces the cost of operation, conserving cash previously needed to pay for energy, thus making rural businesses stronger and more competitive.



The [USDA Rural Development](#) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program is intended to directly help farmers, ranchers and small rural businesses. Assistance may be in the form of grants, guaranteed loans, or a combination.

[USDA Rural Development](#) dollars bring certain requirements with the them. In addition to good business and engineering practices, energy efficiency projects may have environmental requirements as determined by existing Federal laws and regulations. Successful applicants are pioneers in business, technical and environmental issues that are to be addressed in developing future projects supported by this program.

Eligible Applicants

- Farmers and ranchers who directly engage in the production of agricultural products, and obtain at least 50 percent of their gross income from their agriculture business.
- Rural small businesses as defined by the Small Business Administration.
- A private entity including a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, and a cooperative.
- Non-profit organizations and public entities are **not** eligible.



Eligible Areas

Projects are required to be in a rural area. A rural area is defined as any area that has a population of less than 50,000 and is rural in nature.



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Eligible Projects

Energy efficiency projects are improvements to a facility, building or process that **reduces energy consumption**. Savings from energy efficiency improvements will be verified by an energy audit or assessment.



- Energy efficient refrigeration for grocery stores.
- Installing energy efficient equipment and lighting in a restaurant using a Reverse Ambient Solar Energy Refrigeration System (RASERS).
- Installing new boiler systems and high efficiency dry kilns.
- Energy conservation and efficiency for offices/warehouses for calibrating light controls, lighting alternatives, and insulation.
- Installing more efficient grain dryers.
- Replacing diesel pumps with electric pumps in irrigation systems.

Project Specifics

- Must be located in a rural area.
- Be for a pre-commercial or commercially available and replicable technology.
- Be technologically feasible.
- The applicant must be the owner of the system and control the operation and maintenance of the proposed project.